

II. SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 are submitted for consideration in this application by the Examiner during the examination of the above-identified patent application. The full consideration of the references in their entirety by the Examiner is respectfully requested and encouraged. Also, it is respectfully requested that the references be entered into the record of the present application and that the Examiner place his or her initials in the appropriate area on the enclosed Form 1449, thereby indicating the Examiner's consideration of each of the references.

The submission of the references listed on the Form 1449 is for the purpose of providing a complete record and is not a concession that the references listed thereon are prior art to the invention claimed in the patent application, or that non-patent references listed thereon are publications or otherwise prior art to the invention claimed in the patent application. The right is expressly reserved to establish an invention date earlier than the above-identified filing date in order to remove any reference submitted herewith as prior art should it be deemed appropriate to do so.

Further, the submission of the references is not to be taken as a concession that any reference represents art that is relevant or analogous to the claimed invention. Accordingly, the right to argue that any reference is not properly within the scope of prior art relevant to an examination of the claims in the above-identified application is also expressly reserved.

This art cited includes the following and copies are provided with this submission. This art was cited against the parent PCT application, and as indicated on the International Search report, it was considered by the Search Examiner to be of background nature only. Nevertheless, the examiner's consideration of this art is respectfully requested.

A. FOREIGN. PATENTS

1. **German Patent No. 1,063,673 (WIELAND), August 20, 1959.**
2. **German Patent No. 1,104,581 (WIELAND), April 13, 1961.**
3. **Japan Patent Abstract 2000268898 (KURAHASHI) September 29, 2000.**

B. PUBLICATIONS

4. **International Search Report of parent International Patent Application No. PCT/US03/09008, July 7, 2003.**

A copy of each of the above noted references is enclosed as is a completed from PTO-

1449. This should not be construed as a representation that a search has been performed by applicants. The statutory fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.

III. REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 8, 2005 2005, wherein: (1) Claims 1, 5, 8-10 and 12 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,891,297 (POLIAK et al.), and, (2) claims 2-4, , 7 and 11 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, but they were rejected for technical reasons as depending from a rejected base claim.

By the present amendment, applicant has: (1) cancelled Claim 2, without prejudice; (2) amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 2 therein; (3) added new independent Claims 13 and 14; and (4) submitted an Information Disclosure Statement identifying art cited in the PCT parent application.. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested because it places the application into condition for allowance, or, in the alternative, it narrows the issues for appeal.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim __, which the Examiner indicated in the pending Office action, as containing allowable subject matter in the Office Action. As such, claims 1 and 3-12 should be allowable and the withdrawal of the rejection of these claims and the allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

New claim 13 has been added and it is a combination of independent claim 1 and dependent claim 4, with the “whereby clause” removed in view of the Examiner’s statement that it adds no structure to the claim. Claim 4 was indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter and as such, independent Claim 13 should also be allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

New claim 14 has been added and it is a combination of independent claim 1 and dependent claim 3, with the “whereby clause” removed in view of the Examiner’s statement that it adds non structure to the claim. Claim 3 was indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter and as such, independent Claim 14 should also be allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

Lastly, an Information Disclosure Statement is also submitted, which identifies art cited by the International Search Authority in the parent International Application. Applicants believe that this art should have been communicated to the US Patent Office by the International Bureau, but in any event all of the cited is merely of a state of the art category (“A”).

A favorable response is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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